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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 18 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 18 March 2015 regarding the signature of the so-called "treaty on alliance and integration" between Moscow and its occupation regime in Georgia's Tskhinvali region (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 18 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the signature of the so-called "treaty on alliance and integration" between Moscow and its occupation regime in Georgia's Tskhinvali region

After signing the so-called "treaty on alliance and strategic partnership" with its occupation regime in Sokhumi, the Russian Federation signed the so-called "treaty on alliance and integration" with its occupation regime in Tskhinvali on 18 March 2015. This action by the Russian Federation blatantly contradicts international law and undermines the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act, such as the sovereign equality of States, the inviolability of borders, territorial integrity and the fulfilment, in good faith, of obligations under international law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia condemns the signing of the so-called "treaty", which is directed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and, as in the case of Georgia's Abkhazia region — constitutes a factual annexation of the occupied Tskhinvali region of Georgia. The document provides for the full incorporation of Georgia's Tskhinvali region into the social, economic, administrative and even, more importantly, military and security institutions of Russia.

The so-called "treaty" is a flagrant violation by Russia of its commitments under the Ceasefire Agreement of 2008. The signing and subsequent implementation of the document will further aggravate the situation of the population residing in the Russian-occupied Georgian regions and will have grave security implications for Georgia and the wider region. This is of particular concern given the absence of international monitoring mechanisms inside the occupied territories and Russia's persistent refusal to commit to the non-use of force.

It should be stressed that such actions by the Russian Federation are a continuation of the process of aggression carried out against Georgia since the early 1990s and the occupation of Georgia's territories following the Russian invasion of Georgia and the Russian-Georgian war of August 2008. Russia's policy vis-à-vis Georgia, coupled with the alarming developments in the region, illustrates that Moscow does not accept the independent choice of sovereign States and strives for the restoration of zones of influence in the region, including through the use of force, occupation, annexation and other aggressive acts.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia calls on the international community to give due legal and political weight to Russia's illegal acts and take effective measures to prevent the Russian policy, including by establishing international security arrangements on the ground. The strong and unanimous support of the international community will be vital for maintaining security and stability in the region.